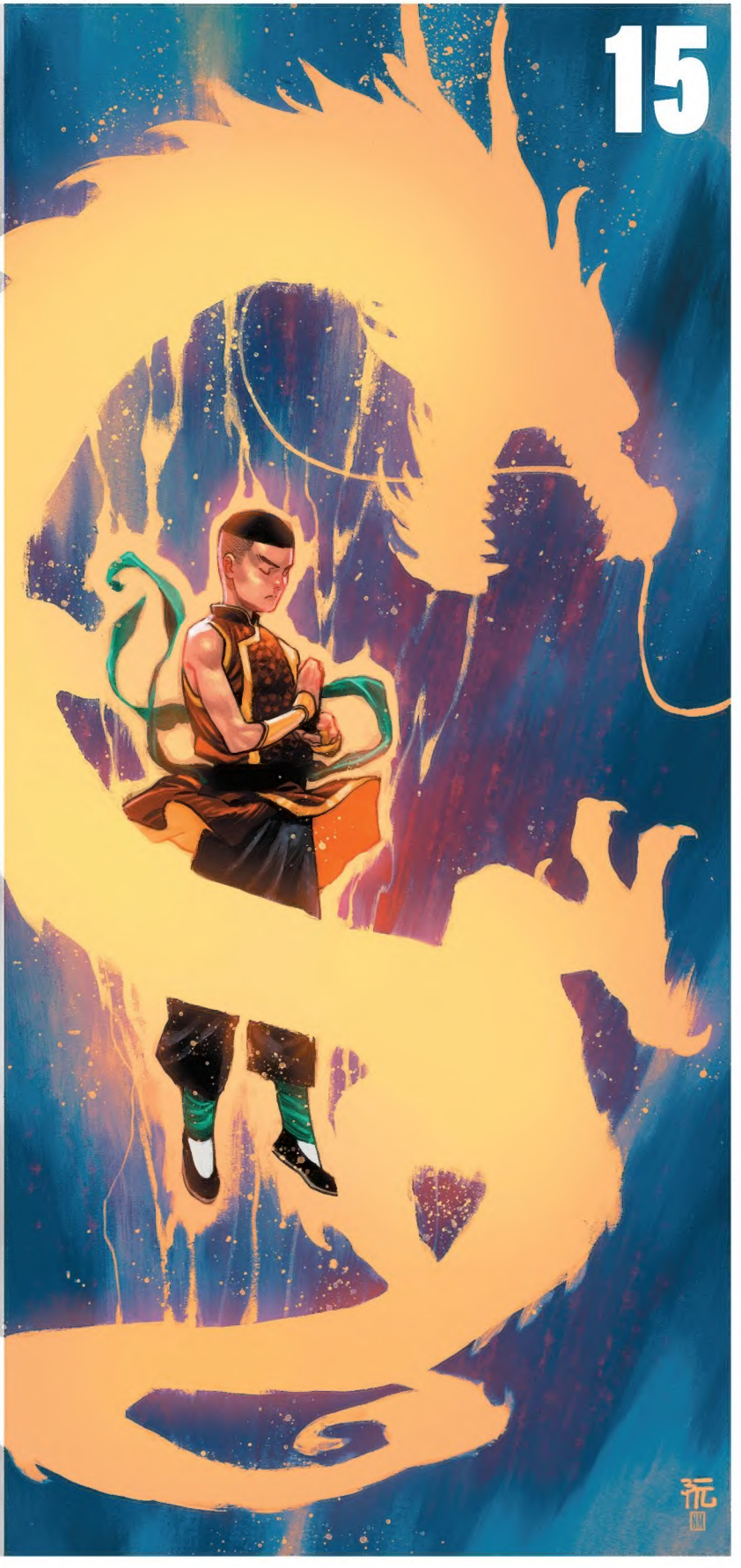
MARVEL

THE ULTIMATES



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CAMP
RANDAL | ARCINIEGA

AUG. 2025 | RATED T+

His name was "神奇," Shen Qi, the Miraculous...
...8th wielder of the Iron Fist, master of every discipline, greatest warrior Heaven would ever see.
In the Celestial Tournaments, he easily proved himself most deadly of the Immortal Weapons...
...and his performance was so perfect, his movements so fluid and his technique so beyond reproach...
...even the gods looked at him whose name meant "godlike" with respect.

It was Shen Qi who led the forces of Heaven to victory against the endless demon legions of the 8th City and, in a battle so terrible the sun itself hid her face and the sky wept, saved the Seven Cities.

Later, wading through rivers of quickly clotting blood, disgusted beyond disgust, Shen Qi renounced violence.

Amidst endless corpse mounds, man and demon thrown together in unholy union, he renounced Heaven, Hell and the world.

In the most remote forests of K'un-Lun, he found a place and closed his eyes and began to meditate.
When he opened them again, forty years had passed.
Shen Qi found himself surrounded.
They'd come from everywhere-- from K'un-Zi and Tiger Island, from peaceful Peng Lai and the Kingdom of Spiders. From Z'Gambo and the Under City.
They were highborn and lowborn. They were seekers and ascetics and holy men. Students and teachers, peasants, priests and prostitutes, merchants and farmers and warriors.
They'd all come to learn from the Awakened One.

Shen Qi rose and began to walk and to speak, and the people followed and listened. He walked across all seven cities, moving between worlds as easily as between rooms in a house.
Shen Qi spoke on the self and the illusion of the self. He spoke of the path of self-extinction.
He spoke of his past lives, of which he now remembered all.
He spoke of the essential condition of the world, which was suffering, and the path to escape it. He preached distrust of doctrines, of kings and princes, and of gods.
For are they not subject to time, as everything else?
He preached against violence for entertainment's sake, against the tournaments and the schools.
Let the world be your school. Let self-abnegation be your fighting style.

Wherever he went, he performed great miracles, things never before done with chi.
Long-fallow fields sprung to verdant life.
The sick were healed. The infertile bore strong sons and daughters. The mad found peace.
Word spread far and wide. Everywhere, people were taking up the crimson robe and the crimson headband. On his path, founded on his very footsteps, his followers built great monasteries as testaments to his teachings.
They called him a god, though he never claimed to be one.
Word of this new kind of god who preached against the old gods spread far and wide, until words reached celestial ears.

The gods, being gods, responded as gods so often do: with wrath.
They fought for 1,000 days and 1,000 nights. They fought so furiously the seven celestial cities shook, and mountains shattered, and the sun once more hid her face, and even the stars and the night fled in fear, so that the naked machineries of heaven filled the sky for a time.
But in the end, the gods prevailed.
Shen Qi's followers gathered once more around their dying teacher. With his last breath, he promised to one day return.

That was 10,000 years ago. Shen Qi's temples and teachings were *burned*, and his gentle followers *slaughtered, imprisoned* or *forcibly converted.*
Every record of his existence was erased from Heaven *and* Earth. His footsteps were scrubbed out with stones. But information is impossible to destroy...
What does a 10,000-year-dead holy man have to do with *us,* Tony? I thought we were looking to the future--this is *ancient history.*
About ten years ago, rumors started spreading in Heaven. Of a baby, and a burning dragon in the sky.
Of spontaneous healing in the boy's presence and man-eating tigers rolling over like newborn kittens at his feet.
Of long-dead fields springing to life after the boy urinated on them.
Huff... Kind of...*huff...* gross...

Banner searched all of Heaven for the boy, but Shen Qi's followers--"those of the red robe"--found him first and hid him on Earth, on a remote mountain in rural Tibet...
Smell that fresh air!
If it's such a secret, how do you know all this, Tony?
Well, Hank, a few weeks ago, we received a message on the UltNet with this information and coordinates, asking for assistance. We're almost there.
Why would Banner be afraid of a... child?
"From what I understand, despite the gods' best efforts, everyone in Heaven has heard the story. It's almost as old as the celestial cities themselves.
"Shen Qi, the Ultimate Iron Fist--reborn to lead his people out of spiritual poverty and violence and into enlightenment."
Never underestimate the power of a good story.
I think he's right to be afraid.
I think he knows a threat when he sees one.

Can we all just take a second to appreciate how beautiful it is out here?
Huff
Who...Huff...
Who are you again?
Danny Rand. I'm a friend of Luke Cage.
Friend of...oh. So you were part of the...
...you were in...?
Yeah. So excuse me for admiring the view a little. Before today, I mostly saw walls, bars and beatings...
Luke insisted you come on this mission. Did you go through the Avengers program...?
No. I'm just a normal guy.
I just-- have you ever felt called to something? Like you were supposed to be there?
When I heard that story... I don't know. I felt called. Like I might be useful. Like it was where I was supposed to be.
I think we're all where we're supposed to be...
...and I think someone might have beat us to it.

No life signs...
Shen Qi's red robes and the Children of Eternal Light...?
Banner...
The boy! Where--?
CRASH

Pfah! Weak-willed fools! Is your faith so puny that a little boy's charismatic aura causes you to betray your master?!
My faith has been forged stronger!
URANIUM BROTHER #235.
IMMORTAL WEAPON OF THE HULK.

I don't understand... Aren't the guys in white the Hulk's people? Why are they--?
We'll figure it out later, Hank! Let's go!
The Incredible Enlightened Hulk has denounced you as a false teacher, child, and declared your ideas a threat to--
BOOOOOM
!!
Eh?

No one said anything about Hulks! I wouldn't have come if I knew there'd be--!
Protect the boy!
Or kill the man!
THOOM
Ultimates! Fortune smiles!
I worried my business here would be concluded before you arrived!

Thought we might find someone like you here. I came prepared.
These are gamma dampeners-- see how you--
Let's put them to the test! How fortunate that your teammate is an experienced test subject!
She-Hulk!
They seem quite effective, heretic!
Now where was I...?
KRAM
Ah yes...

KRAKOOSH
For the Strongest--
Huh?
Got him!
And I've got him!
STOMP

SPLURRCH
OWWWWWW!!!
KRAK
Not one real warrior among you!
Unh!

Ruaauhh!
RIPPLURCH
To kill the boy would have been honor enough, but to kill *you* also? I am unworthy of the universe's gifts.
I have spent *time* on your island. With your *disgusting,* broken people. Those the gamma judged *weak* and *wanting.* Your continued existence was all that kept them alive.
When I bring my master your heart, it will be my pleasure to put your people out of their misery. *One* by *one.*
HAHA HAHAHAHA HAHA!

RAHHH!
TINK
TINK
TINK
Let's try this again!
TINK
TINK
Strongest... I am...
Shut up.
Are you *okay*, kid?
I am just as I should be, Daniel Rand.
Huh? How'd you know--?

So full of... faith...but it's not *faith* that makes us strong...*rage* makes us strong...
Tell Banner, Brother...tell your master *I'm coming.* Coming for *my people.* Coming for *him.*
Tell him I cannot be stopped--or *denied.* Tell him there is nothing *left* of me but rage.
RIIIDPPDP
Oh, never mind...
I'll tell him myself.
THREE MONTHS REMAINING...

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